

Applicant : William D. Scott
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In the Specification:

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning on page 3, line 22 to page 4, line 17 with the following two replacement paragraphs:

The core 16 is preferably made from a thermoformable polymer such as ABS. The core is shaped to fit inside a corresponding vinyl jacket ~~12~~ 14, such that the combination of jacket 14 and core 16 fit over the opening 11 of a hot tub 10. The core 16 ~~is a single piece of plastic, including~~ includes opposing lateral portions 34 and 35 joined by a central hinge portion 22. Each lateral portion 34, 35 is a structural, non-water absorbing, single piece of plastic that extends from an inner edge 20 to an outer, peripheral side edge 21 (shown in Fig. 4 on lateral portion 35 only). The outer edge 21 is in communication with the outer edge 28 of the jacket 14 when inserted in the jacket 14. The hinge 22 extends parallel to edges 20 and 21 from a front peripheral edge 36 (not shown) to a rear peripheral edge 37 (not shown), so that the core 16 is foldable approximately in half. The front edge 36 and rear edge 37 are in communication with the front 24 and rear 26 edges of the jacket 14 respectively when the core 16 is inserted in the jacket 14.

In ~~another~~ the preferred embodiment, the core 16 includes an upper surface, or upper wall, 30, a lower surface, or lower wall, 32, and a plurality of ribs 18 extending therebetween and defining a plurality of openings 31. As shown in Figs. 2 and 4, the ribs 18 generally run parallel to the hinge 22 and extend from the front edge 36 to the rear edge 37 of the core 16. In a the preferred embodiment, the ribs 18 are evenly distributed between the hinge 22

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and outer edges ~~34 and 36~~ 21. In ~~another~~ the preferred embodiment, each rib 18 has a height 38 that is uniform from the front edge 36 to the rear edge 37. However, the height 38 of each sequential rib 18 decreases from the hinge 22 toward the outer edge ~~20~~ 21, such that the upper surface 30 and lower surface 32 converge from a central portion 33, 37 of the upper and lower surfaces near the hinge 22 toward ~~approaching~~ the outer edge ~~20~~ 21 of the lateral portions 34 and 35.